

New York News Letter

NEW YORK, Sept. 8.—Preliminary estimates place the amount of money needed for the maintenance of the city's public schools during the coming year, now almost at hand, at the enormous total of \$35,000,000. This in the aggregate is a greater sum by far than is spent in free education in any other city in the country, though in its per capita distribution it is exceeded in several municipalities. Placing the school attendance at 600,000 children, the cost for each one during the year will amount to about \$58—a figure which is surpassed by a considerable number of cities throughout the country. In New York, however, because of the concentration of the population, the cost of education is comparatively low. Even with the tremendous sum of \$35,000,000 at its disposal it is doubtful whether the city will be able to afford educational facilities to all who want them. This amount represents an increase of \$7,000,000 over last year when thousands of children had to get along with only partial facilities. Probably if the whole of this \$7,000,000 increase could be used for taking care of pupils New York might for the first time find itself able to care for all of them. More than \$5,000,000 of this sum will go to teachers however; \$3,000,000 to put into effect the proposed increase in their salaries and \$2,000,000 for the salaries of new principals and teachers in the day schools. Next year, too, \$435,000 will be spent on playgrounds as compared to \$185,000 this year. Evening schools where a part of the overflow is cared for will need \$668,000 and truant schools \$26,000. Attendance officers, the dread of pupils whose only ambition is playing hooky, will cost \$122,000, this being the sum which the city will have to pay to compel education. Altogether this tremendous appropriation while it is hardly expected to care for all educational needs is likely to stand for some time as a municipal record.

Is a goat a crime or a disease? This is the astonishing question which in a perfectly serious way has been put up to the city's legal talent after heated controversy. The Police Department holds the animal to be a disease, and refers it to the Health Department. There the eater of tin cans and theatrical posters has been solemnly denominated a crime, and not coming as such within the Health Department's jurisdiction referred back to the police. Ludicrous as the question may seem, it will now have to be decided officially in order that the proper department of the city's guardians may be instructed to deal with the plague of goats now troubling the lower east side. These animals seem suddenly to have superseded the cat as the popular pet among the masses of this crowded district and so numerous have they become and so serious their depredations that official action must be taken. Indeed the situation closely resembles that supposed to be peculiar to Harlem before that district was filled up with fashionable apartment houses. Within the last month two old women and three children have been almost killed by these omnivorous animals which were animated by no more improper desire than to consume as food the clothes of their victims. The Police Department on being appealed to for the suppression of the goat announced that there was duty of the health department—thus no pound for the reception of this animal and that its suppression was the making of a disease. The Health Department after careful investigation announced itself unable to discover any disease known as goat, referring the matter back to the police, thus making the goat a crime. Eastsiders assert that the animal is both a disease and a crime and several other things and are waiting his classification before they can look for relief from the goat plague.

The trade dollar, now generally forgotten but once famous in the history of the currency of the country, has just come to light again in New York in a most surprising way. While the details of the question are still a puzzle and probably will not be fully cleared up for some time, the matter as it makes it unique. In a word it would stand now has a legal aspect which seem that it may not always be legal to pass legal tender. At any rate a man has just been arrested in this city for passing trade dollars, at one time a regular part of the currency issued by the United States. Naturally this coin has never been repudiated and from the viewpoint of the layman should still pass for its face value. Most of these dollars are so valuable because of their supposedly scarcity as to keep them out of the field of trade and render them salable at a premium to coin collectors. But a very consid-

erable number of which have recently appeared in circulation in this city have raised the interesting question as to whether they may legally be passed. An arrest has already been made for so doing and the person arrested, while admitting frankly that he bought these dollars for seventy-five cents apiece from a Wall Street firm and then passed them at face value, contends that he has committed no crime since the coin in questions were issued by the government. On the other hand the magistrate who ordered the complaint drawn against the prisoner asserts that there is cheating somewhere and consequently fraud. No charge of counterfeiting is made and the defense asserts that the mere fact that a coin is purchased for less than its face value but more than its actual bullion value does not make its circulation a crime. On this basis it is contended the passing of the present silver dollar would be wrong. Altogether the case when it comes to trial promises some interesting features.

Unless an Amalgamated Association of Rice Throwers is formed the time-honored custom of hurling showers of rice at newly married couples is likely to become a thing of the past. Even old shoes may be barred, and this by official action, for conductors and porters on trans entering and leaving this city have started a crusade against the custom and are taking it up through their unions, it is reported. The people who indulge in rice throwing have no union, although it has been rumored that the discontinuance of this gentle pastime will be fought by rice importers who fear a fall in the market should the custom be abolished. The reason for the crusade of the conductors and porters is not sentimental. It does not even propose to advance civilization. It is purely utilitarian and selfish. A Pullman car through which about forty pounds of rice have been sprinkled is about as difficult a job in the house cleaning line as can be found. For that reason the porters are against rice throwing since it means much work at the end of the run. Furthermore before the rice is cleaned up it does not add to the attractiveness of the car, for which the conductor is responsible. Hence this antagonism to this time-honored custom. While the matter may seem a small one its true importance is better understood when it is known that on an average five newly married couples are bombarded with rice every day on trains leaving New York. It is estimated that more than 100,000 pounds of this food product is wasted in this way every year in the city. Furthermore rice throwing is frowned on by doctors who hold it to be dangerous and point out the case of a bridegroom who only last week almost died from the effect of several grains of rice which lodged in his ear. Altogether the indictment against this custom is a heavy one.

While the country has managed to survive without a poet laureate up to now this deficiency will soon be supplied if the curious bill which a New Yorker will introduce at the next session of Congress is passed. This bill is intended solely to create by legislative methods the office of poet to the federal government. The framer of the measure argues that there is already an official historian to the federal government and that the glory and greatness of the country make an official poet an absolute necessity. Furthermore, he modestly provides in his bill that he shall be the first occupant of the next office, "not for any financial reasons but purely for the honor of it," as he puts it. So if the office is created it will not only be brought about by a New Yorker but filled by one as well. The method of selecting the proper man for such a job would naturally prove a difficult one. Competitive trials it is feared would result in placing the judges in asylums. Also if the official poet had to write campaign verses the matter would be still further complicated. There is certain to be a highly interesting debate when this bill comes before Congress.

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WANTED—GIRL TO WORK IN printing office. Call at Astorian office. 9-6-1f

WANTED AT ONCE, TWO experienced steamstresses. Call at 274 Commercial street. 9-6-6t

MESSANGER BOYS WITH Bicycles wanted at the Western Union. 8-22-1f

WANTED—A WAITRESS OF EXPERIENCE; good wages. Apply Irving Hotel. 9-1-7t

FOR SALE—REAL ESTATE.

FOR SALE AT A BARGAIN—TWO lots and an 8-room modern house with bath. For particulars address B. 100, Astorian office. 9-1-6t

SACRIFICE SALE—DWELLING house and lot, 50x100 feet on 17th street between Franklin and Grand; owner leaving town and is anxious to sell; will sell furniture with house if desired. Van Dusen & Co., agents. 9-3-5t

CITY PROPERTY FOR SALE.

A 6-ROOM HOUSE AND 3 LOTS near the new brickyard in Alderbrook; this is a bargain at \$2300. A. R. Johnson, 120 Twelfth St. 9-6-1f

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WANTED TO RENT—A STOCK or dairy farm for cash or shares. Address Lewis & Clark, R. F. D., Box 80. 9-4-1m

FOR SALE—MISCELLANEOUS.

FOR SALE AT A BARGAIN—Horse, harness and wagon; call at Henningsen's Furniture Store, 506 Bond street. 9-5-6t

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WANTED—MISCELLANEOUS.

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MASSAGE.

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LOST—JADE RING, BETWEEN Ninth street and Logan's hall. Finder please leave at this office and receive reward. 9-6-1f

LOST—A BUSTER BROWN WIG in the Wild West Parade. Finder please return to W. R. Macbeth and receive reward. 9-5-6t

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JOHN C. McCUE, Attorney-at-Law

Page Building, Suite 4

HOWARD M. BROWNELL Attorney-at-Law

Deputy District Attorney 420 Commercial Street

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